

# Gang Education and Prevention



## Community Services & Youth Division

Providing a continuum of services for youth and young adults who are at risk of or involved in delinquent or criminal activity

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## What is a Gang ?

A gang as defined by the North Carolina Street Gang Suppression Act is any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, that:

- 1) Has one of its primary activities the commission of one or more felony offenses, or delinquent acts that would be felonies if committed by an adult;
- 2) Has three or more members individually or collectively engaged in, or who have engaged in, criminal street gang activity; and,
- 3) May have a common name, common identifying sign or symbol.



## Why Do Youth Join Gangs?

There are many reasons a young person might chose to join a gang. Below are some of the more common reasons:

- 1) For a sense of “respect” and self-identity.
- 2) For protection and a sense of belonging, to counter peer intimidation.
- 3) To replace a dysfunctional family.
- 4) Lack of economic opportunity.
- 5) Desire for excitement.
- 6) Lack of positive alternative activities.
- 7) Born into a family with gang members.
- 8) Acceptance of gangs in Pop Culture.



## Consequences of Being in a Gang

Joining a gang is never a good idea. It can put you and your family in danger. Although membership is sometimes temporary, it can have long term negative effects on your future. Gang members frequently drop out of school and/or end up in jail.



As a result, it is more difficult to find a job. Many members suffer from alcohol or drug abuse. Ultimately, some gang members are seriously injured or even killed. Joining a gang is a choice - make a better choice today. Here's how:

- Reach high - make a plan for your life.
- Talk with someone you trust.
- Participate in athletics, club, or arts program.
- Take a part-time job.
- Talk with your parents, religious leader, teacher, coach, or guidance counselor.
- Look for a "safe zone" in your school or community.



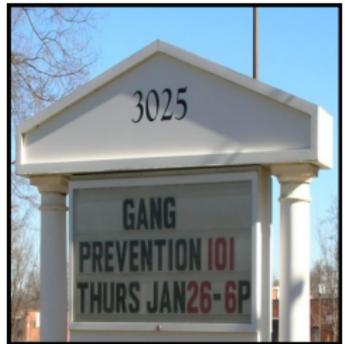


## Signals That Can Indicate Gang Membership

1. Change in style of clothing usually worn or wearing one particular color.
2. Withdrawing from one's family.
3. Declining grades and poor school attendance.
4. Unexplained money or possessions.
5. Tattoos, nicknames, or graffiti on personal items affiliated with a group.
6. Frequent contact with local police.

## What Can You Do?

It is important to become educated about gangs and to talk with youth about the consequences of being in a gang. The Community Services & Youth Division can help by providing gang resistance trainings for youth and gang recognition and awareness workshops for adults.





**POLICE** To schedule a free presentation, contact the Youth Engagement Unit.

**Phone - 704/336.7331**  
**Email - [youthengagement@cmpd.org](mailto:youthengagement@cmpd.org)**  
**Web - [www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org)**



*The CMPD cares about youth and their future but supporting them takes a village. Let's work together for our youth. As parents or guardians, you can:*

- *Be a positive role model.*
- *Involve your child in supervised, positive group activities.*
- *Get to know your child's friends and parents.*
- *Set limits for your child and enforce them.*
- *Praise your child for doing well, encourage them to do their best.*
- *Get involved in your child's school.*
- *Teach your child to set positive goals, to hold high standards, treat others with respect, and to prepare for a wonderful future!*

*The more connected a child is with family, school, and community, the less likely they will be attracted to delinquent or criminal activity or gangs.*



*Community Services & Youth Division*



# Community Services & Youth Division

## Gang Education and Prevention

### Adult Gang Education

A one-hour workshop designed to educate participants about gangs in Charlotte and ways in which to prevent the growth of gangs.



### Youth Gang Resistance Training

A one-hour workshop designed to educate participants about the realities of gang life and introduce them to positive alternatives through local programs, services, and activities.



**CMPD**

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